(c) what steps have been taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Due to drought situation and less availability of water in Hirakud reservoir, closure of several canals was inevitable, thus affecting Rabi irrigation and causing drinking water problem in some districts of Orissa.

(c) Water from various sources like Indravati reservoir and Power houses at Burla and Chipilima are being released into Mahanadi to meet drinking water and irrigation water requirements in the affected districts.

Shortage of irrigation water in Gohana, Haryana

675. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers in the village of Gohana sub division of Haryana have been facing an acute shortage of canal water meant for irrigation purposes;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) Government of Haryana has informed that since the availability of water in Bhakra Reservoir and Yamuna river being less, the rotation programme has been divided into five groups instead of earlier four groups and all channels falling in the territorial jurisdiction of Gohana area have been receiving their share as per the availability of water during their turns.

Private Sector participation in irrigation

676. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need for encouraging private sector participation in irrigation sector;

(b) if so, the present status in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The Government of India had constituted a High Level Committee under the Chairmanship of the then Union Minister of State for Water Resources to examine the feasibility and scope of Private Sector Participation in irrigation and multi-purpose projects. The Committee submitted its report in December, 1995, which, *inter-alia,* recommended promoting private sector participation in command area development programme, upto bulk supply of water to Water Users Associations and to consider giving incentives such as tourism, tax holidays, floating tax-free revenue bonds/loans at concessional rates including moratorium on repayment, development of pisiculture, limited use of reservoir water of horticulture, right of water sports, navigation in reservoir areas, lands for commercial exploitation on embankments, etc.

A copy of the report was sent to all the States/UTs for necessary follow-up action and feedback on the report. Although the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Orissa and U.P. have given positive response and out of these Gujarat and Maharashtra have introduced the concept of Private Sector Participation in some limited projects as pilot projects, most of the States have indicated lack of scope of private sector participation in this sector.

The Planning Commission, Government of India has constituted a Working Group on Private Sector and Beneficiaries Participation Programme for formulation of the Tenth Five Year Plan in November, 2000.